

MINUTES OF GARRETT SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT
SUPERVISORS' MEETING

January 19, 2021

Teleconference Meeting

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Smokey Stanton. The Meeting was conducted via phone-in conference call. Other supervisors present on the call were Kris Enlow, Bill Buckel and Katharine Dubansky. Chad Bucklew, Carrie Colebank, Heather Hutchinson and Roger Kitzmiller were also present via telephone.

Minutes for the December 15, 2020 Board Meeting were approved as submitted, without objection.

The following report of state funds was presented and approved:

Balance – December 1, 2020	\$ 12,742.43
Receipts – December 1, 2020 – December 31, 2020	<u>0.00</u>
	\$ 12,742.43
Expenditures – December 1, 2020 – December 31, 2020	<u>100.00</u>
Balance – December 31, 2020.....	\$12,642.43

A detailed Treasurers Report of balances and expenditures for all accounts, for the period of December 15, 2020 through January 19, 2021, was distributed. The Treasurers Report was accepted and approved as submitted, without objection. Carrie suggested \$4000 of the \$8000 in the no-till drill account "could" be transferred to the money market account - she will check with Cameron for advisement.

Information presented to the Board:

- Office Update: COVID-19. Office procedures and work schedules are basically unchanged. MDA Employees continue to telework with weekly office visits; Chad, Carrie and Roger are teleworking with office visits as needed.
- The District will secure advertising in The Republican (2 weeks) and The Cumberland Times News (3 days) for two MDA positions that are open in Garrett County: a Soil Conservation Associate III (Technician) position and an Agricultural Resource Conservation Specialist (Planner) position. MDA will reimburse the District for advertising costs. The Board felt that advertising in these two newspapers would be the most effective in reaching the target audience.
- District Scholarship information will be mailed to local educational facilities in February – no objections
- Information regarding BMP's installed and other selected, district activities was compiled and presented to MASCD.
- Items to be included in the up-coming District Newsletter in being collected.
- The District will continue to take advantage of the extended MASCD/NRCS agreement at a projected 3 days per week – no questions or objections.

- A mailbox will be installed outside the office for Suite C (NRCS, the District and MDA)
- Staff is soliciting individuals to submit applications to the State Soil Conservation Committee for the open seat on the District Board of Supervisors.
- Roger informed the Board that the Erosion and Sediment Control Plan review and approval process has largely transitioned from paper to electronic.
- The District's budget request (\$19,706 as well as in-kind support of \$2373.31) to the county will be the same as last year – no objections. Roger will submit the request before the February 26, 2021 deadline.

Chad presented to the Board that Maryland NRCS is in the process of hiring up to as many as 24 additional personnel through the Direct Hire authority. Potentially, one of these positions could be located in the Garrett Office, but there is still some uncertainty about the exact number of potential positions that may be filled. Chad also noted that the EQIP Round 1 signup deadline was January 8th, and that 35 applications were submitted. Chad also presented an update on the progress of the work at Sebold Farm in Grantsville. Several contract items are now certified complete, and a contract payment for the majority of the contract funds is in process.

Carrie is assisting/coordinating with the HR Department at MDA in local advertisement of the open positions (above) in Garrett County.

Heather presented a brief overview of MDA's Buffer Program that is available to local farmers.

A call for further business brought no response and the meeting adjourned at 8:13 p.m.